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THOUGHTS

ON THE

DEFENCE OF THESE KINGDOMS.

1397. d. 33.

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OF

THESE KINGDOMS.

IN TWO PARTS.

of Britain and Ireland

LONDON:

SOLD BY FAULDER, BOND STREET; AND DEBRETT, AND
STOCKDALE, PICCADILLY.

1796.

1145



THOUGHTS
ON THE
DEFENCE OF THESE KINGDOMS, &c.

PART FIRST.

AT a moment like the present, and in a contest like that in which this country is engaged, although great attention should be given to the protection of our commerce in all parts of the world, and to the retaining the possession of those foreign settlements and territories on which that commerce is supposed very much to depend, perfect security at home ought yet to be our first consideration.

Our naval force cannot be increased to such an extent, as to render it of itself a sufficient protection, not only for all our external possessions, but also perfectly to secure every part of the coast of Great Britain and Ireland against foreign invasion and depredation. Our extended trade is vulnerable in more parts of the world than

it was formerly, and our numerous foreign dependencies require the protection of our navy, a great part of which must be sent away from these islands, whose defence was once its sole object, to repel attacks made on the exterior parts of our dominion.

A force on shore equal to complete internal defence is therefore indispensably necessary, and a well regulated militia is the true constitutional force, as well as the most effectual, for that defence. Is the present number, as established under the militia act, viz. about 30,000 men, adequate to that object, and if not, in what manner can the deficiency be best supplied; whether by additional regiments of the line, fencible regiments, volunteer companies and associations in towns, yeomanry cavalry, or an augmentation of the militia, or by any or all of these means?

With so extensive a frontier to defend, less than 100,000 men, that is, 80,000 in Great Britain, and 20,000 in Ireland, to which immediate recourse may be had, and

in addition to the regular troops employed on this service, does not seem sufficient for the purpose; to be provided, perhaps, nearly in the following proportions, 60,000 militia men and 7,000 yeomanry cavalry in England; 12,000 militia men and 1,000 yeomanry cavalry in Scotland; and 18,000 militia men and 2,000 yeomanry cavalry in Ireland.*

The heavy expence attending levies of troops of the line, at a moment when there are so many calls on the public purse, renders it adviseable to adopt a more economical mode of providing for our defence; and the length of time which would be necessary to make up the above deficiency when wanted in the ordinary mode of recruiting, such great levies being also required to complete the troops on foreign stations, make it inexpedient to raise troops of the line for the sole purpose of home

* The number of men capable of bearing arms in a country may be estimated at one-fourth part of its population, or one-half of its males.

service, at least in Great Britain; and such new regiments, collected from the dregs of the people, though procured at such an enormous expence, are very inferior to men raised for the militia, (nor could they be so much depended upon) and a large proportion of those recruits are afterwards found to be wholly unfit for service, whilst these, and militia recruits, are both, in an equal degree, raw, and untrained.

Fencible regiments, in point of utility, no otherwise differ from militia regiments, than that they may be sent to Ireland, or to Jersey, Guernsey, and Alderney; but from the limited bounties the officers raising them are permitted to give, the English fencible men are usually very inferior to militia men; though in Scotland, the case may be different, and for this obvious reason, that in fact they are at present the militia of that country. What the objections are to raising a militia in Scotland, on the same principle as in England, I know not, but the measure has been often recom-

mended by respectable individuals of that country: it seems to be reasonable that the system of defence should be the same in both parts of the kingdom, and the present appears the most fit opportunity for establishing it, if it be a right measure to pursue. The same objection, in a constitutional point of view, applies to the officers of the English fencible regiments, as to those of the standing army, no qualification from property being required of them: the expence of raising these regiments is also considerable, their recruiting interferes with that of regiments of the line, and much time would necessarily elapse before the number required could be raised, if ever: under all these circumstances, the small advantage of being able to send these troops to Ireland, &c. seems more than counterbalanced by the inconveniences attached to them. But how is the defence of Ireland, and of the above-mentioned islands, to be secured? In the first place, by their militia, and in addition thereto, by a certain propor-

tion of other troops, unless the legislature should think it adviseable to extend the service of the militia generally to all the British islands.

As to volunteer companies and associations, their utility seems confined to two objects; the maintaining the police in the towns they inhabit, by assisting the civil power, and the manning batteries on the coast. As these corps are comparatively of no expence, admit of no substitutes, and of course are composed of persons who otherwise would not serve at all, there is no objection to their continuance as a part of our military establishment, though their actual number is too small, and the objects of their service too limited, to render them of sufficient importance to be considered as a part of the 100,000 men.

The late institution of yeomanry cavalry, is likely to be productive of much good. Considering it only as an armed association of persons possessing property, as well of yeomanry as of the superior orders in so-

ciety, it is admirably calculated to check the attempts of rioters and mobs, whether conspiring for the purpose of subverting the constitution, or for that of plunder. In case of invasion they would be found of the greatest utility, from their knowledge of the country and the influence they would naturally have with the inhabitants, in directing, and enforcing where necessary, the removal of property, driving of cattle, breaking up of roads, and laying waste and destroying the forage and provisions, in the country near the enemy's stations, as well as in harassing his foraging parties, or the columns of the invading troops themselves on their line of march, and, in short, in acting in almost every situation in which hussars and other light cavalry on the continent are usually employed. The institution should, with some small modification, be rendered permanent, and the number kept complete in time of peace, which would be of no expence; the individuals who compose them might be called together for

a muster on one day in the year, to produce their cloathing, arms, accoutrements, and horses; and some small privilege granted to them, as for instance, not requiring a game certificate if otherwise qualified to sport, and being allowed to keep one horse without paying the duty, would, it is presumed, in addition to the support and countenance of persons of rank and great property in the several counties, secure their duration.

Let us now consider the militia. And first it is proper to remark, that the present existing number is but about the half of the 67,954 men, commissioned and non-commissioned officers included, originally intended, as appears by the parliamentary proceedings at the time. Being raised by ballot, the number of men required is collected without expence, with expedition and certainty, and, from the powers of objection and rejection vested in the deputy lieutenants magistrates, and commanding officers of regiments, no men

will be received, who are not, in point of age, strength, and health, perfectly fit for the service. In time of peace, the expence of training, and even of cloathing, may be contained within any bounds that the wisdom of Parliament shall think proper, by calling out to exercise such a proportion only as may be agreed upon; and in time of war, the expence may also be limited, by calling into actual service but so many men of each regiment, or so many regiments, as the exigency of affairs may require; and these are advantages which can be found in no other institution. If it should be thought expedient afterwards to draw out the whole force, it can be assembled in a very few days; the expence of levying is totally saved, and competition with the regular troops in recruiting is prevented. The instant they are disembodied the expence ceases; the evils which attend the disbanding of other soldiers are avoided, as every man has a known home to return to; and

the advantages resulting to the public from a force of this description may be resumed, if necessary, on the shortest notice. If therefore an enemy, at a future period, and even during a profound peace, should, after making secret preparations, perfidiously attempt to invade us, we should at any time almost instantaneously be ready, with 100,000 men, in addition to our regular troops, to oppose him. Various opinions are entertained as to the degree of military instruction necessary for the militia; some thinking that it should be as little as possible like the standing army, scarcely differing from the *posse comitatus*, others again wishing it to be as much as may be, in point of discipline, on the footing of troops of the line. It is a fair question to ask, whether it is not for the safety of the country, that these troops should be as highly disciplined and trained as possible, and why they should not have the advantage of regular discipline on the one hand, whilst they are

regulated under every constitutional safeguard and check on the other?

Great changes in the trade and manufactures, and consequently in the population, of particular counties, having taken place, since the proportions were fixed, the directions enjoined in the 50th clause of the present Militia Act, for returning annually lists of men liable to serve to the Privy Council, should be enforced, and the quota to be furnished by each county should, from time to time, be regulated, according to the respective circumstances of those counties. And as the expence of the pay of officers is considerable, and that there is a great difficulty in procuring them, and especially subalterns, instead of adding to the number of regiments more than is absolutely necessary, the strength of companies might be increased to a hundred rank and file, viz. ninety-six privates and four corporals, with four serjeants and three officers to each company. But in that case advantage

would arise, if an additional Lieutenant were attached to the three field officers' companies, that their attention should not be drawn away from the more general superintendence of the regiment itself, by the minuter duties necessarily attached to the care of a company. The Lieutenants commanding the Lieutenant Colonel's and Major's companies, should, equally with the Lieutenant commanding the Colonel's company, be favoured with the rank of Captain, and the title of Captain-Lieutenant; two of the Lieutenants now attached to the flank companies, and another Lieutenant to be added to the establishment, might be appointed to the Colonel's, Lieutenant Colonel's, and Major's companies, and two additional Ensigns appointed to the flank companies: the only increase of expence would be the additional pay of one Lieutenant, and two Ensigns; but the advantages would be many, the field officers' companies would be as well attend-

ed to, both in and out of the field, as the rest, and the regiment would have the benefit of another Lieutenant, and of two other officers of the rank of Captain, and who would do duty as such; which commissions would be supplied with greater facility than those of subalterns, and from the increase of numbers, the turn of duty of each rank would be rendered less severe. Each company would then have a Captain, or a Captain-Lieutenant with the rank of Captain, commanding it, and a Lieutenant and Ensign attached to it, and the attention of the field officers would be given wholly to their regiments at large.

It is of essential consequence to the well being of the militia, that the whole of the non-commissioned officers be kept up, when disembodied, otherwise, in case of being called out on any emergency, a sufficient number of persons, really fit for those duties, are not to be found. Where the advantage gained is evidently so great, the ex-

pence attending the alteration, being about £36,000, ought not be regarded, but if it should, whilst no duties in time of peace are required of them, the non-commissioned officers of every regiment might be formed into a company, under the command of the Adjutant, with the Serjeant Major and Drum Major acting as his subalterns, and employed on any duty in any part of the kingdom; nor is cloathing necessary for them once in two years, as granted them at present, any more than to the privates, who receive it only every fifth year, unless some further duty is expected from them.

It is also of great importance to secure the services of subaltern officers. The allowances granted lately by Parliament, were rather too small to gain the end; and less than £.36 to a Lieutenant, and £.24 to an Ensign, as an annual retainer, would scarcely answer the purpose. These should be given, during their continuance in the service, to all subalterns, not pos-

sessing £.200 per annum, the qualification for a company, and not holding any office or employment under government, who shall have served ten years, or during a whole war, or who shall have commenced serving from a period within one month after the calling out of the militia, and shall have served to the disembodiment thereof. And for a further encouragement, any subaltern, not qualified for a company, and not holding such office or employment as above mentioned, and having served for thirty years in one or more regiments of militia, and certified by the commanding officer of his regiment, as being aged, infirm, or unfit for further service, should receive £.36 per annum, for the remainder of his life, provided his income does not in the mean while increase beyond such £.200 per annum, and provided he does not hold any such office or employment. And all the officers having such retainers or pensions, should annually

make oath, at the time they receive the same, that, *bona fide*, they have not, nor has any one in trust for them respectively, such income of £200. per annum, or such office or employment; and that they have not possessed or enjoyed such income, office, or employment, for twelve months preceding the time of taking such oath. It would certainly be most desirable that subalterns of militia should all be men of property; but as that is not to be expected, the next object is to obtain those of the best description that can be procured. The legislature having endeavoured to induce half-pay officers to come into regiments of militia, by permitting them to retain their half pay, it seems to have been the general opinion, that they were desirable acquisitions to regiments. They cannot but have some military knowledge, and it is the same thing to the country, (men qualified by property being excluded), whether these retainers be paid to half pay officers, or to men who never served before;

but tried men, many of whom have served their country with great credit, seem to have the best title to these allowances. The exception in the present act of parliament relative to half-pay officers ought therefore to be removed.

With respect to Field Officers and Captains, the procuring gentlemen to accept of these commissions is not so difficult as in the case of subalterns; yet some kind of inducement should be held out to them as well as to subalterns; such, for instance, as being exonerated from holding the office of High Sheriff, or any parochial office, not only during the time they are serving, but also for life, after having served fifteen years as commissioned officers in the militia. And a power might be vested in his Majesty, to grant to any militia officer, who has served fifteen years in any one rank, or twenty years in the whole, ten of which twenty years in the rank in which he is then actually serving, the

brevet rank in the army of the commission immediately above that which such officer shall actually hold. And as the rank and situation of a Field Officer would, to many gentlemen, be a greater object than the pay and advantages of a Captain, a power might also be given to appoint a second Lieutenant Colonel, and a second Major, to any regiment consisting of a number of men to be fixed in the act, but who should serve without pay or emolument. By such an arrangement, the means would be afforded of rendering the service less burthensome to gentlemen who serve their country from public spirit, often to the great detriment of their private affairs, by affording the means of granting leave of absence more frequently to officers than can at present be done, and that without any expence to the country.

Although the privileges of the city of London, and of the district called the Tower Hamlets, exempt them from furnishing their

quota towards the militia on its present establishment, yet it is but just and reasonable that they should provide a certain force, liable to be called upon to act in case of necessity ; the extent of which force, as well as what should constitute that necessity, should be clearly defined and ascertained, and which troops should be mustered regularly, and trained to arms, whatever may be the regulations by which they may be governed. Whether it may be best to revert to the old system of the Trained Bands, or to adopt the later plan of the last London Militia Act, and extend it so that the levies may bear a due proportion to the number of inhabitants of those populous districts, I shall not presume to determine ; but it can admit of no doubt, that both the Artillery Company, and the militia levies for London, &c. should be put on the most useful footing which can be devised, without detriment to the privileges those districts en-

joy. What the number may be which they might fairly be called upon to furnish respectively, I have not been able to ascertain; but whatever it is, from the limited extent of the duties to be expected from these corps, they should not be considered as a part of the 100,000 men.

Another great improvement which could be made in the militia system, is the consolidation of the Welsh, and other small corps, into regiments of sufficient numbers to be brought to act with others. Small corps are far more expensive than the same number of men would be if formed into battalions of a proper magnitude. In time of peace each of these corps has its Adjutant on constant pay; and in time of war, each has its Adjutant, Surgeon, and Quartermaster, besides various other contingent expences, which would be avoided, in case several were united together. The regiments of the counties of Monmouth and

Brecknock have already been consolidated ; this example should be followed. From the smallness of their numbers, such corps cannot be practised in manœuvres with other troops, or as others are ; and when encamped, they are for the most part ordered to assist the artillery in exercising the guns. If no augmentation whatever should be adopted, still it would be right, on account of œconomy, that the Cumberland and Westmoreland regiments should be united, and they would, on their present establishment, together form a battalion of 560 men. When the lieutenancy of those counties shall happen not to be in the same hands, each Lord Lieutenant might nominate to commissions of each rank, proportionate to the number of men now raised in the two counties respectively ; and when a vacancy shall arise, the Colonel might be appointed alternately by each. The counties of Northumberland and Durham might furnish one regiment of

960 men. The counties of Bedford, Cambridge, Rutland, Huntingdon, and Nottingham, together, produce 1,800 men, and would form two regiments of 900 men each. The whole number now raised in the principality of Wales, and divided into twelve corps, amounts to 2,000 men, and should be formed into two regiments, or at most three, the officers to be nominated on the above-mentioned principle.

The time allotted to training in time of peace is not sufficient for the purpose ; the men can scarcely have eighteen days of exercise out of the twenty-eight, after deducting those taken up by their journeys to and from the place of meeting, for which they would have no pay, unless their attendance on those days was dispensed with, sundays, the days of taking out, distributing, and fitting the cloathing, and returning it into the stores, and the accidental hindrance from bad weather. They should be embodied six weeks ; and a fur-

ther allowance should be made for journies to and from the meetings, at the rate of a shilling to those who have not more than twenty miles to travel, and sixpence more for every additional ten miles, as far as the boundary of the county, but no farther. The expence is inconsiderable; but if it were otherwise, it ought not to be put in the balance against real utility and solid advantage; and all these increased expences might be compensated, by training the militia only every second year, the time of training to begin the latter end of April, so as to be completed by the beginning of June. To prevent the possibility of fraud, the whole should be trained about the same time of the year, and mustered on the same day in every part of the kingdom, by two or more deputy lieutenants in the several divisions of each county, who should return the muster rolls to the Privy Council, certified upon oath.

Each battalion should always have two

field pieces attached to it, that they might be in readiness on any sudden emergency, which might render it necessary to call out the militia; these might, in the first instance, be furnished by the Orðnance, but to secure their being properly taken care of, the expence of providing them in future might be paid out of the county rate. Short light nine pounders or carronades would be the most proper for this service; and carriages and harness somewhat similar to those of the horse artillery should always be kept in readiness, to transport them with the greater expedition in case of need, for which horses should be impressed when wanted. These guns, with a certain quantity of ammunition, together with the arms, cloathing, and regimental stores, should be taken care of in an arsenal in each county, under the care of the Adjutant, of the Sergeant Major, and of two non-commissioned officers, who should always be attached to the guns: their state should from time to

time be inspected, and a certificate of their condition, signed by a Field Officer of the regiment, and by the Adjutant, should annually be sent to the Privy Council. And as a further check, an inspection by a Reviewing General, or a Field Officer of the line commanding in any neighbouring barrack or quarters, or other person properly authorized by the executive power, might at unexpected times be ordered.

If it should be thought proper to call out the militia for training only every other year, although the time of training would be six weeks instead of four, yet the men would be taken from their homes for a lesser time by a fortnight, than they are at present, if a sixth year was added to the term of their service. By such arrangement, every militia soldier would, during the time of his service, be trained three times; and the cloathing might be expected to last six years, instead of five, whereby a sixth part of the present expence of cloathing might

be saved, for in that case it would only be worn for four months and a half in six years, instead of five months in five years according to the present method.

A further saving of above one-third on each suit of soldiers' cloathing, or twelve shillings per man, might be made by furnishing them, in time of peace, with a jacket, two pair of duck trowsers, and a leather cap, which articles might be supplied for £1 for each man, instead of £1. 12s. and would be as useful as the present cloathing.

I shall draw out, in the Appendix to this Address, an estimate of what the charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia forces would be in time of peace, if the following alterations were adopted, contrasting it against the present expence.

1. To increase the number to 90,000 men.
2. To allow four serjeants, four corporals, and two drummers, per company.

3. To extend the term of service to six years.
4. To allow cloathing but once in six years.
5. To reduce the expence of cloathing to £1 per man.
6. To extend the time of training to six weeks.
7. To train half the number once in two years, the remainder not to be called out unless the militia should be embodied, but to be enrolled, and mustered before every training meeting, in their several divisions.
8. To add a second Lieutenant Colonel, a second Major, one Lieutenant, and two Ensigns, to every battalion, and convert two Lieutenants into Captain-Lieutenants.

The militia might also be rendered of further use to the public service, if any militia soldier, desirous of inlisting in the

regulars, might be entitled to his discharge for that express purpose ; the vacancies to be immediately filled up by ballot. A very moderate bounty would induce many to do so ; and a greater number would be ready to serve abroad, if the character and situation of a private soldier were rendered more respectable. Perhaps I may be considered as exceeding the proper limits of this Address, in stating what I am about to add, as much of it may not appear to relate to the militia institution, which is the principal object I have in view ; but a part of what I shall venture to submit, will in some degree apply to the militia, and as the whole may tend to render the one of the two services of more utility to the other, and still further to cement that harmony which exists between them ; and as I am particularly anxious to contribute my mite to the welfare, happiness, and advantage of the British soldier, I rely on the indulgence of my readers.

Substance is often sacrificed to form ; and because a standing army for more than a year is unconstitutional in this land of liberty, and that the army is annually voted, a British soldier is almost the only one in Europe who, in point of fact, must continue in the service for life, instead of having his option, at the expiration of a certain number of years, to quit a profession he had once, perhaps, inconsiderately embraced ; and into which, there have been too many melancholy instances of young men's having been enticed and forced, by means of the grossest fraud and perfidy. This might certainly be amended, by engaging men for a certain number of years, six for instance ; declaring, that it is only, provided the Parliament should for so long a period continue to vote the army. During the last six months of the time, the greater part would engage for a second such period, for a very moderate bounty ; and those who wish for their discharge, when abroad, at the ex-

piration of the six years might be sent home from our foreign possessions, working their passage as ordinary seamen, and paid as such; which would be some advantage to the navy, and no expence to the country. And any non-commissioned officer or private, wishing for his discharge at any earlier period, should be indulged with it, on his producing two unexceptionable recruits in his stead. As to men now in the service, although their inlisting has been for an indefinite term, yet they should be included in the regulation, and six years after the date of each such man's attestation, he should be entitled to his discharge.

A small deduction monthly from the pay of every soldier, would, by adding to the revenues of Chelsea college, create a sufficient fund to enable the public to reward the services of such men as have served 24 years, or have been disabled in the service at an earlier period, by increasing to £ 9. 2s. per annum, or sixpence per diem, the Chel-

sea out-pension, and granting it to all such soldiers. With such a provision on the one hand, and the certainty of a discharge, if they wished for it, at the expiration of the stipulated term for which they had enlisted, on the other, there would no longer be any difficulty in recruiting our armies; and the persons enlisting would be of a very different description from a great proportion of those now employed in the service of the country; the service itself would become more honourable and respectable; and desertion, at present so prevalent, would then scarcely be known. Nothing can disgrace an army more than the frequency of desertion. No effectual remedy has yet been found to prevent it; even the severity exercised on particular occasions, has not the desired effect: the certainty of a punishment, less severe, but strictly and uniformly adhered to, whenever instances of desertion should happen, would most probably answer the purpose. And if it be considered,



that in addition to the injury done to the country which has protected and maintained him, there is also the crime of perjury superadded, no man would think it too severe a punishment for a deserter, if he were immediately draughted into the New South Wales corps, or some such body of men always serving abroad; and this regulation should be extended to militia soldiers deserting, as well as to others.

The practice of draughting from the gaols and hulks, to recruit regiments, should be for ever abolished; for how can it be expected, that a soldier or seaman should consider himself as a member of an honourable profession, when convicts are placed in the same situation with him, and he is obliged to associate with them. If it should be thought desirable to employ some of these persons in a military service, they should be formed into corps consisting of privates of such description only, who should have a distinct name and dress, and a lesser pay.

and should be employed only on duties of fatigue, as labourers to the corps of Royal Artificers, or in some such laborious employment. They should have a larger proportion of non-commissioned officers, who should not be promoted from the privates of that body ; and as the number attached to any army, or stationed in any garrison abroad, could never be very considerable, no danger or inconvenience could possibly arise from their being collected together ; on the contrary, they would be more easily watched, and kept from doing any injury. The time of their service might bear a proportion to their guilt, some might be sent for life, others for a term of years ; and as an inducement to good behaviour, where a man condemned to serve in such a corps for a long term of years, or for life, should conduct himself for a considerable number of years in an irreproachable manner, and shew himself really worthy of favour, an application might be made by

the commanding officer of the corps to his Majesty, for a remission of the remaining part of such man's sentence. Thus hope would never be entirely taken away, despair would be prevented, which often renders men careless of what they do, and every one would have an incentive to act right.

The practice of crimping, which is repugnant to every feeling and generous principle, should be instantly and effectually prevented, and the mode of recruiting the army placed on a more efficacious, more economical, and more respectable, footing.—To prevent that competition, which does not produce a greater number of men, but increases the expence to the nation, recruiting should be conducted on one general system. Depôts of recruits should be established in different parts of these kingdoms, and the number of men required to supply the wants of regiments abroad, should be sent them from these depôts. A very advantageous

plan for this purpose was some time since submitted to that illustrious Prince, who with so much diligence and impartiality, as well as credit to himself, and benefit to his country, is placed at the head of the army, the adoption of great part of which is said to be in agitation.*

The mode of trial by regimental courts martial, seems to require a reform. In every other court in these kingdoms, including general courts martial, not only the evidences are put on their oath, but those who sit as judges are also sworn to do justice, either once for all on being appointed to judicial situations, as is the case with judges and magistrates of every description, or on every occasion where a trial is to take place, as in that of jurymen, and of members of general courts martial. In the case of a regimental court martial, neither the one

* The author of this plan is Colonel Roberts, Colonel of the late 111th regiment.

nor the other are on oath. Every circumstance which tends to augment the solemnity of a trial, to bring forth truth, and to increase the security of the accused person against false charges, must be for the benefit of every part of the community; and it is difficult to assign a reason, why a soldier is to be exposed to the danger arising from false testimony before a regimental, more than before a general, court martial. That the punishment which can be awarded by the former does not extend to death, is certainly true, yet very severe punishments may be inflicted by it; but is this distinction known in any other court; and is it only in cases of life and death that a witness is put on his oath in the other tribunals of this country? No—the same caution has been thought necessary in all cases; and the smallest amount of property belonging to the meanest subject in this kingdom, is equally protected by our wise and impartial constitution, as the life as well as the fortune

of the highest individual. The president and members of the regimental court martial, as well as the evidences, should be sworn by the Adjutant acting as Judge Advocate, and he should himself be sworn by the President. And no officer who is not of the age of twenty-one years, or at the least eighteen, and who has not been six months in the service, should be capable of sitting on any court martial. The formation of courts martial in the Austrian service is well worthy of imitation in this country of real liberty, one of the fundamental principles of whose constitution is, that a man shall be tried by his peers. In Austria, a court martial for the trial of a private soldier, has invariably a proportion of privates and non-commissioned officers, as well as commissioned officers, upon it ; from which practice, no inconvenience has been found to arise in that country, nor could any happen here. A short code of military law for the direction of those who sit on courts mar-

tial, would be of the greatest utility, and could easily be compiled out of the several treatises written on the subject, and from the many precedents which can be found in the proceedings of courts martial, in the Judge Advocate's possession. For want of such a code, many irregularities occur on trials held in remote situations, where access cannot be had to those, whose experience might relieve an occasional Judge Advocate from a difficulty under which he may labour.

It frequently happens that soldiers and seamen returning from abroad, after having been discharged as unfit to serve, are landed at some port very distant from their places of settlement or residence, having little or no money. Their case is still more deplorable, if they have been wounded, have totally lost their health, or have wives and children with them. The inhabitants of the western sea-ports have, during the present war, seen many instances of extreme

misery suffered by large numbers of these unfortunate people, landed in a most pitiable condition, wandering long about their streets, some unable to go on, and dying of disease, and almost of want ; and those who survived obliged at last to proceed on their journey, with no other dependance or resource, but by offending against the law of the land, in soliciting relief by the road side from the charity of individuals. By the last vagrant act, all persons begging are liable to be punished by whipping or imprisonment, and no persons can legally be sent by a vagrant pass, but with a certificate that they have been so whipped or imprisoned, and in custody of constables, delivering them over one to another, from district to district, till they arrive at the place specified in the pass. It cannot be expected that these people should, for any length of time, be maintained as casual poor at the places where they landed, nor that parishes should be at the expence of send-

ing them to their places of settlement by orders of removal. How then are they to perform their journey, perhaps from Cornwall or Devonshire, to Chelsea or Greenwich to apply for pensions, or to Scotland, or the north of England? Certainly a brave soldier or seaman should not be forced by necessity to take up the trade of a beggar, nor be treated as a delinquent, but they should be supported by the public till they arrive at their own homes. On their landing they should be examined and their discharges inspected, and a pass, drawn up in a form of words distinct from any other, should be given them, in which their persons should be described, the places of their landing and of their destination should be inserted, and also the length of time allowed for their journey, which might be at the rate of twelve miles a day, for five days, and allowing them two halting days in every week, unless in particular cases where a longer time may be necessary, in which cases

the cause should be specified. They should then receive from the mayor of the sea-port one penny per mile for each person described in such pass, for the distance between the sea-port and the next corporate town on their direct road ; at which town they should, in like manner, receive from the mayor at the same rate for their support to another town on their route, and so on to the end of their journey ; each mayor inserting in the pass, the date of payment, number of miles, sum paid, and any further remark he may find necessary. And as this expence would prove very burthensome to towns near the coast and on great roads, if the money so disbursed were not repaid to them, and the whole country is equally interested in the measure, the mayor of the last town on the route should retain their pass, giving them another under his own hand to the place of their destination, and send the former pass to the receiver general of the land-tax of the county where such town is situate, who

should forthwith pay the whole amount of the money so expended, or such part thereof as he shall find to be justly due, into the hands of the postmaster of a neighbouring town, directing him to cause the several sums paid by the mayor of each town mentioned in the pass, to be repaid to them respectively by the postmasters of such towns; and the receiver general should pay to the postmaster the usual allowance for such transmission of money, for which a receipt should be given to him on the back of the pass, and such pass should be allowed as a voucher for such payments.

If a standing army be necessary, under the existing circumstances of the state of affairs in Europe, no man will deny that less danger is likely to arise to our constitution, from troops composed of more respectable characters, and the individuals of which enjoy the rights and privileges of other British subjects, than from an army, collected from the refuse of mankind, and

not permitted to participate of the blessings which are the right of every other class of people in this country. Much has been done by the bounty of his present Majesty, and of Parliament, for the comfort and support of the poor soldier ; but something more seems to be the right of one, whose profession should entitle him to the respect and gratitude of the country, for which he endangers his health in noxious climates, and spills his blood. Some persons may conceive that a greater degree of respectability attached to the character of a British soldier, would render him less attentive to his duty, and less obedient to command ; to such, a very short, but, I trust, a very sufficient answer, may be given, namely, that the very strict discipline and subordination of the Swiss regiments, in every part of the world where they have been employed, are as conspicuous as their love of true liberty and of their country ; and it would be an insult to our national character to suppose, that a British soldier

would not be actuated by the same laudable feelings and sense of duty.

Let us now consider in what manner the expence of our establishment might best be lessened in time of peace, without diminishing our means of defence for these islands, and our foreign possessions, even at the first breaking out of any future war. It seems that a great reduction of our regiments of infantry, and an increase of our marines, to be inlisted for six years, on the same principle as the rest of our army, as mentioned above, would be the most likely measures to effect this purpose. The marine corps is the favourite with the inferior classes of the people; it is always good policy to take advantage of such a prejudice, and it is immaterial whether it arises from a propensity for the sea service, which, more or less, operates on the minds of all the inhabitants of these islands, or whether the hope of prize-money is the temptation. The marines will obtain many recruits, paying little or no bounty, whilst recruiting parties

of regiments of the line offering much greater advantages, get few men. The conduct of that truly gallant body of men, by sea and land, has been uniformly and invariably meritorious, and they might be rendered of more general utility. Our garrisons abroad might, in a great degree, if not wholly, be formed of marines, alternately serving on board the ships of war on the station, and on shore; which would contribute to their improvement in both duties, and to the preservation of their health. When ships are relieved on any station, an opportunity would be afforded, of gratifying a considerable part of these men, by bringing them home to their own country and families in the returning ships, probably as many, as would be desirous of coming back at any time; which regulation, operating for the indulgence of those who re-enter into the service at the expiration of their six years, whilst those who quit it would return of course, would render the service pleasing

to the class of people from which the soldier is obtained. Able sea officers have given it as their opinion, that a much larger number of marines might, with advantage to the country, be employed on board our ships of war, to the extent probably of one-third, or even perhaps one-half, of their complement. The marines at present perform a large part of the duties of seamen, and some very inconsiderable indulgence granted them, would induce them to serve cheerfully in any station on board. What an advantage would arise to the country at the breaking out of a war, if 20,000 marines, all good seamen, could be transferred to the fleet; replacing those in foreign garrisons by quota men, provided at a short notice by the several parishes, or other recruits! These marines, together with the seamen on the peace establishment, would half man the largest navy the country could require, and the deficiency of their number would be very shortly made up, without having recourse

to the unpleasant but now often necessary expedient of impressing, by quota men, by seamen furnished by the merchants to obtain protections, and by volunteers. Every measure which can recommend the sea service to the people at large, or increase the number of our seamen, is unquestionably of the highest national importance. Several bills have been brought into the House of Commons by Mr. Secretary Dundas, for the purpose of securing to seamen a more easy receipt of their wages and prize-money, and of enabling them to have part of their wages paid to their families, whilst they are themselves serving abroad. He deserves our best thanks for his endeavours; but the work is not yet perfect; great difficulties still arise, and many seamen are long deprived of their due, whilst others never obtain it. A similar measure, if it can be brought to perfection, would be equally desirable for soldiers as for seamen. Ships in the Greenland and Newfoundland trades are compelled to take

a certain number of lads as apprentices, and greenmen; a very great nursery of seamen would be obtained, if such a regulation extended to all our shipping, in proportion to their tonnage, or to the number of hands necessary to navigate the several ships, not even excepting ships of war, who might take a certain proportion of boys, according to their number of guns. With such a body of marines ready to be transferred to the fleet, the number of seamen on our peace establishment, and the immediate resources from quota men, and seamen from the merchant service, with a proper number of dragoons and artillery, and with so large a force of militia and yeomanry cavalry as above proposed, this country and its foreign dependencies would be fully protected.

The adoption of telegraphs and of signal towers, is a material improvement in our system of defence. The latter should be still further extended, and alarm posts

established round our coasts, to which, in case of need, all friends to their country might repair, whether armed or unarmed; and to which posts government might instantly dispatch such arms and ammunition as might be required: and also places should be fixed upon to which cattle of all kinds, and all transportable property might, on the appearance of danger, be removed: all these are essential parts of the system. Small batteries, of one or more guns, according to the situation, should be placed at all places, where even a privateer's crew may land for plunder; a hut should be erected near each of them, and an invalid artillery man to act as bombardier, with three or four men of the nearest volunteer company or association under his command, should always, in times like the present, be stationed there; all which batteries should be under the inspection of officers, established at proper distances for that purpose.

Marshal Saxe, and other eminent writers, strenuously recommend the use of pikes: a

sufficient quantity of them should be prepared to arm a number of men, to be called upon only in case of actual invasion, equal to half the militia, or 45,000 men for both countries; and the people, who in that case would join at the alarm posts, might be appointed to use them. Such a regulation would provide the militia with a complete rear rank, armed with these pikes. They would be of great use both against cavalry and infantry, the pikemen, and soldiers armed with musquetry, would reciprocally give confidence to each other; and men untrained to arms, would have no difficulty in using the pikes. They would only have to keep their ranks well closed up, to follow their file leaders, and to charge with their pikes, when the front and center ranks charge with their bayonets.

Small bodies of expert marksmen, in case of invasion, should be selected to serve with the yeomanry cavalry. These might be formed in part of soldiers; but as the duty to be performed by them would be perfectly irre-

gular, sportsmen, gamekeepers, &c. might with great advantage be joined to them.

The more we augment our cavalry and artillery the better, for an enemy cannot possibly transport a number of each to this country, sufficient to cope with what we ought to bring against him. In case of actual invasion, a considerable number of men on horseback, armed with swords, uninstructed in military operations, but attentive and obedient to the commands of those who would be appointed to lead them, might on many occasions be very serviceable; and with regard to the artillery, the calibre of the guns should be large, to throw heavy grape-shot to a great distance. We can be at no difficulty to move them from place to place; for a large proportion of men who are not soldiers might be put to the dragropes, and any number of horses which may be required, either for the use of the irregular cavalry, or of the artillery, can be obtained whenever they are wanted. A proper number of gun-boats should also be

provided, to attack from the flanks, the enemy's brigades of boats when going to land: they would serve as good a purpose as batteries on the shore, and they are even more necessary, as they may be moved to any place where they are required, and we cannot line our whole coast with guns. If the enemy brings gun-boats to cover his landing, we ought to have a sufficient number also to oppose them. By exerting ourselves a little in making preparations, we shall probably prevent the threatened attack; but if it should take place, we ought not to despond, those preparations would ensure our ultimate success: the enemy after landing must soon be distressed, as he could not bring forage and provisions for any length of time with him, and the greatest care would certainly be taken that he should get no supplies in this country: the difficulties of every sort which he would have to encounter, if our conduct be what it ought, are inconceivable; too much precipitation should be avoided on our part; he should be conti-

nually harassed, but a general attack should not be made upon him, till he can be taken at a disadvantage, as the consequences of a defeat on our side would be very serious. If our commanders should prove as prudent and able, as they would unquestionably be found to be personally brave, our success cannot be doubted.

It is with the greatest deference, and with no small degree of anxiety, that I have thus ventured to submit these few sheets to the public eye, and to express such reflections as have occurred to me. I cannot conclude, without recommending the perusal of General Lloyd's book on the defence of this country, called his Rhapsody, from which much information may be obtained on this very interesting subject.

ERRATA.

Page 11, line 12, for *respective* read *actual*.

Page 48, line 9, after the word *boys*, insert, in addition to
those already allowed as officers' servants.

POSTSCRIPT.

It has been proposed, in the preceding pages, that the total rank and file for England be 60,000, distributed into regiments of 1000 men each ; perfect equality of numbers is not essential, whether the companies in some regiments a little exceed, and in others be a little under, the 100 men. This is an inevitable consequence of the difference of extent and population of the several counties, and it will operate, (without an *unequal* ballot) not only on the number of regiments to be produced by each county, but also on that of companies in regiments, and of men in the companies themselves. The more however that they are equalized the better, and the consolidation of the regiments of the smaller counties will, in a great measure, accomplish it.

From a comparison of the estimate with the statement which follows, it will be

found, that the 30,000 *men proposed to be added* to the English militia, at an expence of £.55,251 6s. 4d. can be supported for very little more than is required for *two battalions of the line of 1000 rank and file each.*



APPENDIX, No. I.

EXPENCE, in Time of Peace, of the present Militia Establishment.

	£.	s.	d.
28 days pay for 20,000 Privates, being two-thirds of the Establishment, at 1s. per diem	28,000	—	—
Cloathing for such 20,000 Privates, at 1l. 12s. each, 32,000l. every fifth year, or per annum	6,400	—	—
365 days pay for 514 Drummers, being one per Company, at 6d. per diem	4,690	5	—
Cloathing for 514 Drummers, at 2l. each, 1028l. every second year, or per annum	514	—	—
365 days pay for 1028 Corporals, being two per Company, at 8d. per diem	12,507	6	8
Cloathing for 1028 Corporals, at 2l. each, 2056l. every second year, or per annum	1,028	—	—
365 days pay for 1028 Serjeants, being two per Company, at 1s. per diem	18,761	—	—
Cloathing for 1028 Serjeants, at 3l. 10s. each, 3598l. every second year, or per annum	1,799	—	—
Extra allowance for cloathing for 66 Serjeants-major, and 66 Drum-majors, at 1l. each, 132l. every second year, or per annum	66	—	—
Extra ditto for 66 Serjeants major, at 2s. 6d. per week, 429l. and for 66 Drum-majors, at 3s. 6d. per week, 600l. 12s. total	1,029	12	—
365 days pay for 66 Adjutants, at 6s. per diem	7,227	—	—
28 days pay for other Officers, [see the Estimates on the Journals of the House of Commons]	8,700	—	—
Expence, exclusive of allowances to certain Subalterns granted by a late act of parliament	90,722	3	8
Add allowances to Subalterns, estimated at 22l. 10s. each, being the mean between the present allowances to Lieutenants of 25l. per annum, and to Ensigns of 20l. per annum, and supposing 600 claimants, 300 of each rank	13,500	—	—
Total expence for 30,000 men	104,222	3	8

APPENDIX, No. II.

ESTIMATE of what the Annual Expence of the Militia Establishment would be in Time of Peace, if the proposed Alterations were adopted, if Sixty Battalions were formed, of 1000 Rank and File each, for England alone, and Twelve such Battalions for Scotland, and Eighteen for Ireland.

	£.	s.	d.
42 days pay for 28,800 Privates, being the half of the proposed Establishment, at 1s. per diem, 60,480l. every second year, or per annum	30,240	—	—
Cloathing for such 28,800 Privates, at 1l. each, 28,800l. every sixth year, or per annum	4,800	—	—
365 days pay for 1320 Drummers and Fifers, being two Drummers per Company, and two Fifers per Battalion, at 6d. per diem	12,045	—	—
Cloathing for 1320 Drummers and Fifers, at 1l. 10s. each, 1980l. every sixth year, or per annum	330	—	—
365 days pay for 2400 Corporals, being four per Company, at 8d. per diem	29,200	—	—
Cloathing for 2400 Corporals, at 1l. each, 2400l. every sixth year, or per annum	400	—	—
365 days pay for 2520 Serjeants, being four per Company, beside a Serjeant-major and Quarter-master Serjeant per Battalion, at 1s. per diem	45,990	—	—
Cloathing for 2520 Serjeants, at 3l. each, 7560l. every sixth year, or per annum	1,290	—	—
Extra allowance for cloathing for 60 Serjeants-major, and 60 Drum-majors, at 1l. each, 120l. every sixth year, or per annum	20	—	—
Extra allowance for 60 Serjeants-major at 2s. 6d. per week, 390l. and for 60 Drum-majors at 3s. 6d. per week, 546l. Total	936	—	—
365 days pay for 60 Adjutants, at 6s. per diem	6,570	—	—
42 days pay for other Officers,—adding to 8700l. the sum at present allowed, 4350l. for the additional 14 days, and 1197l. for pay for the additional Lieutenants, at 3s. 6d. and for the two additional Ensigns at 3s. each per diem, being 9s. 6d. per diem per Battalion, for 60 Battalions,—total 14,247l. every second year, or per annum	7,123	10	—
Allowances to Subalterns, estimated at 30l. each, being the mean between the proposed allowances to Lieutenants of 36l. per annum, and to Ensigns of 24l. per annum, and supposing 600 claimants, 300 of each rank	18,000	—	—
Journey money for 30,000 Rank and File, 1320 Drummers and Fifers, and 2520 Serjeants, at 3s. each at an average, 5076l. every second year, or per annum	2,538	—	—
Total expence for 60,000 men for England, doubling the force, at only one-third increased expence	159,482	10	—
Add for Scotland 12,000 men, and for Ireland 18,000 men, at a proportionate expence	79,741	5	—
Total expence for 90,000 Militia Men	239,223	15	—

N. B. The proposed 10,000 Yeomanry Cavalry make up the sum of 100,000 men, but do not add to the expence.

††† In time of war, if *three* Officers be thought too inconsiderable a number to take charge of 100 Rank and File, *ten* additional Ensigns might be added during the time the Militia is embodied; but these should be reduced at the peace, during which, only *one half* of the men of each Company are supposed to be trained.

APPENDIX. No. III.

Distribution of the Pay and Allowances of a Regiment of Infantry of 10 Companies, agreeable to the War Establishment of 1795, consisting of 52 Serjeants, 50 Corporals, 22 Drummers, and 950 Privates; with an Addition to the Establishment of 2 Recruiting Companies when the Regiment is on Foreign Service, of 10 Serjeants, 10 Corporals, and 8 Drummers.

To whom distributed.		Full Pay.		Subsistence.		Deductions from the full Pay.			Nett Arrears of the Com-		Nett Off- reckonings for Clothing.	Annual Allowances.
						Stopt at the Pay Office.		Issued to the Agent.	missioned Officers after the Deductions.			
No.	Rank.	For 1 Day.	For 365 Days.	For 1 Day.	For 365 Days.	Poundage.	Hospital.	Agency.	1 Day.	365 Days.		
		£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
1	Colonel and Captain	1 4 0	438 0 0	0 18 0	328 10 0	21 18 0	1 4 0	3 13 0	4 6 150	82 15 0		
1	Lieut. Colonel and Captain	0 17 0	310 5 0	0 13 0	237 5 0	15 10 3	0 17 0	2 11 9	2 11 9	54 1 0		
1	Lieut. Colonel and Captain without a Company	0 17 0	310 5 0	0 13 0	237 5 0	15 10 3	0 17 0	2 11 9	ditto	54 1 0		
1	Major and Captain	0 15 0	273 15 0	0 11 6	209 17 6	13 13 9	0 15 0	2 5 8	2 7 3	47 3 1		
1	Major and Captain without a Company	0 15 0	273 15 0	0 11 6	209 17 6	13 13 9	0 15 0	2 5 8	ditto	47 3 1		
1	Captain of a Company	0 10 0	182 10 0	0 7 6	136 17 6	9 2 6	0 10 0	1 10 5	1 10 5	34 9 7		
6	Ditto more	3 0 0	1095 0 0	2 5 0	821 5 0	54 15 0	3 0 0	9 2 6	—	206 17 6		
1	Captain-Lieutenant	0 4 8	85 3 4	0 3 6	63 17 6	4 5 2	0 4 8	0 14 3	0 10 11	16 1 9		
21	Lieutenants (First)	4 18 0	1788 10 0	3 13 6	1341 7 6	89 8 6	4 18 0	14 19 3	—	337 16 9		
1	Ensign or Second Lieutenant	0 3 8	66 18 4	0 3 0	54 15 0	3 6 11	0 3 8	0 11 2	5 0 114	8 1 7		
7	Ditto more	1 5 8	468 8 4	1 1 0	383 5 0	23 8 5	1 5 8	3 18 2	—	56 11 1		
1	Chaplain	0 6 8	121 13 4	0 5 0	91 5 0	6 1 8	0 6 8	1 0 3	1 3 42	22 19 9		
1	Adjutant	0 4 0	73 0 0	0 3 0	54 15 0	3 13 0	0 4 0	0 12 2	0 9 7	13 15 10		
1	Quarter Master	0 4 0	85 3 4	0 3 6	63 17 6	4 5 2	0 4 0	0 14 3	0 10 11	16 1 9		
1	Surgeon	0 4 0	73 0 0	0 3 0	54 15 0	3 13 0	0 4 0	0 12 2	0 9 7	13 15 10		
1	Surgeon's Mate	0 3 6	63 17 6	0 3 0	54 15 0	3 3 10	0 3 6	0 10 7	0 3 10	5 4 6		
1	Ditto more	0 3 6	63 17 6	0 3 0	54 15 0	3 3 10	0 3 6	0 10 7	ditto	5 4 6		
1	Serjeant	0 1 6	27 9 6	0 1 0	18 5 0	1 7 4	0 1 6	0 4 6	—	—	7 9 3	
51	Ditto more	3 16 6	1396 2 6	2 11 0	930 15 0	69 16 1	3 16 6	11 12 8	—	—	380 2 2	
1	Corporal	0 1 0	18 5 0	0 0 8	12 3 4	0 18 3	0 1 0	0 3 0	—	—	4 19 4	
49	Ditto more	2 9 0	894 5 0	1 12 8	596 3 4	44 14 3	2 9 0	7 9 0	—	—	243 9 4	
1	Drummer or Fifer	0 1 0	18 5 0	0 0 8	12 3 4	0 18 3	0 1 0	0 3 0	—	—	4 19 4	
21	Ditto more	1 1 0	383 5 0	0 14 0	255 10 0	19 3 3	1 1 0	3 3 10	—	—	104 6 10	
1	Private Soldier	0 0 8	12 3 4	0 0 6	9 2 6	0 12 2	0 0 8	0 2 0	—	—	2 5 11	
949	Ditto more	31 12 8	11546 3 4	23 14 6	8659 12 6	577 6 2	31 12 8	95 17 9	—	—	2181 14 2	
Warrant Men.												
10	To the Colonel	0 6 8	121 13 4	0 5 0	91 5 0							
10	To the Agent	0 6 8	121 13 4	0 5 0	91 5 0							
4	Warrant or contingent Men, 1 Captain	0 2 8	48 13 4	0 2 0	36 10 0	36 10 0	2 0 0	6 1 8	—	—	137 18 4	
36	Ditto to 9 Captains more	1 4 0	438 0 0	0 18 0	328 10 0							
Total Allowances and additional Off-reckonings												
											45 19 7	4086 3 11½
Two Recruiting Companies stationed at Home.												
2	Captains	1 0 0	365 0 0	0 15 0	273 15 0	18 5 0	1 0 0	3 0 10	1 10 24	68 19 2		</